Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 JOHANN 00482 241241Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 HA-05 TRSE-00
OMB-01 /091 W
----------016114 241312Z /45 42
R 240830Z FEB 78
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7314
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 0482

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

DEPT PLEASE PASS AFL-CIO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLAB, SF
SUBJ: WHITE CONFEDERATION REAFFIRMS RACIAL STAND

1. SUMMARY: DURING ITS BI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN PRETORIA, THE ALL-WHITE SOUTH AFRICAN CONFEDERATION OF LABOR DECIDED UNANIMOUSLY TO PRESS FOR THE RETENTION OF JOB RESERVATION. IT ALSO VOTED AGAINST A PROPOSAL TO ALLOW MIXED (WHITE AND COLORED) MEMBERSHIP WITHIN THE CONFEDERATION. WHILE RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR BLACK WORKERS TO BE REPRESENTED, THE CONFEDERATION RETAINED ITS POSITION THAT BLACK UNIONS SHOULD BE BASED IN THE HOMELANDS. IN VIEW OF THE MINISTER OF LABOR FANNIE BOTHA'S REPEATED ASSURANCES TO THE DELEGATES THAT NO DRASTIC CHANGES WOULD BE MADE WITHOUT CONSULTING THEM, THE PROSPOECTS FOR SIGNIFICANT MOVEMENT AWAY FROM RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, RESULTING
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 JOHANN 00482 241241Z

FROM THE WIEHAHN COMMISSION ON LABOR REFORM, APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN DIMINISHED. END SUMMARY.

2. DESPITE PRESSURES BOTH FROM WITHIN ITS RANKS AND WITHOUT, THE 200,000 MEMBER ALL-WHITE SOUTH AFRICAN CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (SACOL) REFUSED TO SHIFT AWAY FROM RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AT ITS BI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN PRETORIA. IN ANTICIAPTION OF THIS

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

EVENT, WHICH WAS REGARDED AS A PRELUDE TO THE REPORT OF THE WIEHAHN COMMISSION ON LABOR REFORM, LEADERS OF THE RACIALLY MIXED TRADE UNION COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA (TUCSA), SUCH AS PRESIDENT RONNIE WEBB AND VICE-PRESIDENT ANDRE MALHERBE, HAD WARNED SACOL THAT THE TWO CONFEDERATIONS COULD BE ON A COLLISION COURSE IF SACOL DOES NOT BEGIN TO RELAX ITS RACIAL POLICIES. SIMILAR EXPRESSIONS OF THE NEED TO ACCOMODATE WORKERS OF ALL RACES IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT WERE MADE BY FORMER MEMBERS OF SACOL SUCH AS PIET ROODT OF THE S.A. FOOTPLATE STAFF ASSOCIATION AND WALLIE GROBLER OF THE RAILWAY ARTISAN STAFF ASSOCIATION.

3. A CHALLENGE WAS ALSO ISSUED FROM WITHIN SACOL BY THE 3,400 MEMBER S.A. TECHNICAL OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION (SATOA) WHICH PROPOSED A CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE TO ALLOW IT TO ADMIT COLORED MEMBERS. THE SATOA PROPOSAL WAS OVERWHELMINGLY REJECTED IN A 21 TO 7 VOTE BY SACOL'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

4. EXTERNAL PRESSURE ON SACOL TO RELAX ITS POSITION ON JOB RESERVATION WAS EXERTED BY THE S.A. BOILERMAKER'S, IRON, STEEL WORKERS, SHIPBUILDERS AND WELDER'S SOCIETY (FORMERLY IN TUCSA) WHICH DECLARED PUBLICLY, IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE CONVENTION, THAT THE BEST WAY FOR THE WHITE WORKER TO KEEP HIS JOB IN THE FACE OF CHEAP BLACK LABOR IS "EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK". BOILERMAKER'S SECRETARY B.D. BOUWER SAID "PAY WHITES AND BLACKS EXACTLY THE SAME AND LET THEM COMPETE ON EQUAL TERMS FOR WHAT JOBS ARE AVAIABLE." DESPITE THESE AND OTHER ARGUMENTS, SACOL
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO PRESS FOR THE CONTINUATION OF JOB RESERVATION "UNTIL OTHER MEANS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED TO PROTECT THE WHITE WORKER AGAINST CHEAP BLACK LABOR."

5. ON THE QUESTION OF BLACK TRADE UNIONISM, SACOL PRESIDENT NIEUWOUDT SAID THAT ALTHOUGH BLACK WORKERS SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO NEGOTIATE ABOUT WAGES AND SERVICE CONDITIONS, THEIR SITUATION IS DIFFERENT SINCE THEY HAVE "THEIR OWN INDEPENDENT REPUBLICS." SACOL, THEREFORE, CONTINUED TO OPPOSE THE RECOGNITION OF BLACK TRADE UNIONS UNLESS THEY ARE BASED IN THE HOMELANDS. (THERE ARE NO BLACK TRADE UNIONS IN ANY OF THE HOMELANDS, INCLUDING TRANSKEI AND BOPHUTHATSWANA.)

6. COMMENT: AN ALLIANCE IN SACOL BETWEEN ARRIE PAULUS OF THE 17,000 MEMBER MINE WORKERS UNION AND WESSEL BORNMAN OF THE 35,000 MEMBER IRON AND STEEL STAFF ASSOCIATION, IS LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR SACOL'S RIGID RACIAL POSITION. IF IT WERE NOT FOR THIS 52,000 MEMBER BLOCK, IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE FOR MODERATES TO MOVE SACOL CLOSER TO TUCSA (220,000 MEMBERS) AND ANOTHER GROUP OF INDEPENDENT WHITE AND COLORED UNIONS REPRESENTING AN ADDITIONAL 100,000 WORKERS, AS WELL AS ABOUT 125,000 BLACK TRADE UNIONISTS. SACOL'S DECISION TO CONTINUE TO FAVOR RACIALLY EXCLUSIVE WHITE AND

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

COLORED UNIONS AND TO OPPOSE BLACK UNIONS OUTSIDE THE HOMELANDS,
AS WELL AS ITS INSISTANCE ON THE RETENTION OF JOB RESERVATION,
BODES ILL FOR THE OUTCOME OF THE WIEHAHN COMMISSION, AS WELL
AS GREATER TRADE UNION UNITY. MINISTER OF LABOR FANNIE BOTHA
REPEATEDLY TOLD THE CONVENTION IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS THAT NO
DRASTIC CHANGES WOULD BE MADE WITHOUT CONSULTING THE WHITE LABOR
FORCE, I.E. SACOL.
JOHNSON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED AFL-CIO.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, LABOR UNIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JOHANN00482
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780086-0208
Format: TEL
From: JOHANNESBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780218/aaaaaoly.tel
Line Count: 125
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 73d238d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3490307
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WHITE CONFEDERATION REAFFIRMS RACIAL STAND
TAGS: ELAB, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/73d238d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014